May 2005

The Next OCRACES Meeting is

**May 3rd
1900 Hours**

**Anaheim EOC
Anaheim, CA**

Orange County Sheriff's Department
Michael S. Carona, Sheriff-Coroner

Captain's Corner
by Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

As we head into May, we see that April has lived up to its reputation as the busiest month for OCRACES. We appreciate the support of our members for our many activities during April. Besides checking in on our weekly 2-meter nets and attending our monthly meeting, members were busy working on and displaying our RACES vehicle, preparing for Baker to Vegas, installing and maintaining APRS systems during the B2V event, participating in the SONGS exercise, and, as we go to press, getting ready for WMD Awareness Training and Christmas in April.

Our RACES emergency response vehicle was displayed to the public on April 9 in Stanton, along with other OCSD vehicles and equipment. Robert Stoffel, KD6DAQ, was joined at Stanton Park by Harvey Packard, KM6BV, Scott Byington, KC6MMF, Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, Bryan Hovde, KD7CRA, John Roberts, W6JOR, and myself.

On April 13, Harvey Packard, KM6BV, participated in the SONGS Exercise from Loma Ridge. While there, he checked into the California Emergency Services Net run by State OES on 7230 kHz. That net runs every Wednesday at 1000 hours, and check-ins are authorized only from EOC locations throughout California and surrounding states.

Baker to Vegas occurred over the April 23-24 weekend. Thanks to Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP, for an excellent job in coordinating this major activity. He was ready at the Baker High School early Saturday morning with a rented trailer equipped with all tools necessary for installing APRS systems in follow vehicles from OCSD and several other agencies. Tony Sanchez, AE6QT, worked diligently with Ralph on the installs. They were joined by Ray Grimes, N8RG, who drove out Saturday morning after picking up Chuck Dolan, KG6UJC (OCRACES applicant), and myself. Also joining us on the installs was a surprise (and very welcome) visitor, Walt Wilson, K7WWW. Working on the system over at the Pahrump command post were Scott Byington, KC6MMF, Jack Barth, AB6VC, and Bill Borg, KG6PEX, later joined by Tony and Walt, who drove over from Baker.

As we wrap up April, Tom Stroud, N6FDZ, is participating in WMD Awareness Training on April 29. Jack Barth, AB6VC, Carol Matthews, KF6ERZ, Bryan Hovde, KD7CRA, Tom Tracey, KC6FIC, Ernest Fierheller, KG6LXT and John Roberts, W6JOR, are scheduled to work Christmas in April on April 30th.

The next OCRACES meeting will NOT be held on the Monday, May 2, but, instead, will be at the Anaheim EOC, 909 E. Vermont St., on Tuesday, May 3, at 1900 hours. We are joining Anaheim RACES for bio-terrorism training being conducted by the Anaheim Fire Department.

SSTV Tips – By Jim Carter, WB6HAG

A few years ago, I published some SSTV operation tips to help improve operation skills. Because new members are learning SSTV operations, I thought it would be valuable to provide this information again as a review in taking meaningful pictures and operating the Kenwood VC-H1.

Taking meaningful pictures during an event, is not only important to the Command Post and EOC operations, it also eliminates unimportant pictures that take valuable airtime away from other SSTV operators. Meaningful pictures help to identify the magnitude of the event and equipment needs or support requirements. Sending pictures without forethought causes a viewer to lose interest and the delay of meaningful pictures. How do you acquire meaningful pictures? Try these useful tips:

♦ While at an event, always keep your VC-H1 and camera ready for storing pictures in either the VC-H1 or your digital or video camera.
♦ Try to get close to the activity by using a zoom lens and don't interfere with public safety activities while obtaining your pictures.
♦ Take you pictures in a storybook fashion as if you were telling someone what happened.
♦ Try to place the subject matter off center to make the composition more dynamic and interesting to the eye.

Have good lighting in your scene since adequate lighting is essential for making your pictures interesting, colorful, dimensional, and viewable to the user. While at daylight events, know where the sun is and avoid shooting into the sun. This can cause a lens flare condition that causes light streaks in your picture. Taking pictures of scenes having light reflections will cause this same effect. Avoid these conditions whenever possible. Night shots will require floodlights, flashlights, spotlights or vehicle headlights to illuminate the scene. Without proper lighting, dark scenes will not show sufficient detail. If you can't determine what's in a picture because it's too dark, don't send it over the airways because the receiving station will not be able to tell either.

Hold your camera steady, this is vital for sharp clear pictures. When you push the shutter button, press it gently rather than jabbing it. Even the slightest camera movement can rob your pictures of sharpness. Use a support to steady your arm by using a tripod or monopod, or lean against something to steady your camera.

Once you arrive at an event think about how you will tell the story in pictures. You first picture should always be at wide-angle to show the magnitude of the event. After that, provide different angles followed by close-ups. Think about how this information would be useful to you if you were at the receiving end. Don't send pictures to just be sending, always have a plan.

Pictures received by Command Posts or EOC's that are viewed as being significant may request you to provide different picture angles or close-ups. Be prepared to accommodate their requests since this tells you that your pictures are meaningful to them. Knowing how to take your pictures in a meaningful matter will save you time, airtime and provide your Command Post and EOC a quality service. After all, "a picture is worth a 1000 words" provided it is meaningful to the viewer. Practice your creativity by taking pictures with your equipment and see if they appear interesting to you and your viewer. If they do, then you have succeeded in taking meaningful pictures.

Jim is our Visual Communications Coordinator, and next month he will present some additional tips for using the VC-H1!

OCRACES Member Profile: Ken Bourne W6HK

Last month we announced Ken Bourne, W6HK, as the new OCRACES Chief Radio Officer. Read on to learn a little bit more about Ken!

Ken has been active in RACES since 1956, when he became an amateur radio operator (K9GHR) at the age of 16 and was made a member of DuPage County RACES in northeastern Illinois. In 1964 he was appointed the chief Radio Officer of DuPage County RACES (administered by the DuPage County Sheriff's Department, which also swore him in as a Special Deputy). By about 1970 he was appointed a State of Illinois RACES Radio Officer for a five-county region. He continued to hold both the county and state positions until 1978, when he moved to California.

In 1978, Ken and his wife Carol, N6YL (formerly WA9NEJ), moved to Orange with their three children (Bob, N6JTZ, Donna, KA6DSO, and Don, KB6TVK, who was an OCRACES member and now lives in Belmont, CA). By the way, Ken met Carol on 6 meters in 1961, and their first date was to the DuPage County EOC! What a romantic! Immediately after moving to Orange, Ken became an OCRACES member in March 1978, and was appointed the chief Radio Officer in 1988.

Ken served as OCRACES Chief Radio Officer until February 1998, when he was appointed State of California OES Deputy Chief ACS Officer. He stepped down from that position a year later after acquiring a neurological disorder, but was soon convinced to accept the position of State OES Southern Region ACS Officer, for an 11-county region. He held that position until January 2003, when he returned to OCRACES as Radio Officer (and his wife Carol returned as the honorary RACES Chief of Culinary Operations with her meeting cookies!). Ken once again became Chief Radio Officer at the April 4th OCRACES meeting.

Becoming an amateur radio operator in high school inspired Ken to pursue a degree in electronics engineering, which he earned in the early 1960s. He is President of R F Associates, Inc., a manufacturers' representative firm specializing in microwave components. Previously, he was Vice President of Mark IV Audio North America, responsible for Vega wireless and signaling products.

Ken is a Senior Member of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), a Commercial Member of APCO (Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials) and CPRA (California Public-Safety Radio Association), a Fellow of the Radio Club of America, and a Member of AFCEA (Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association). He is also a Life Member of ARRL and AMSAT, and a Member of the San Bernardino Microwave Society.

RACES Participates in SONGS Exercise

The County Emergency Operations Center was busy with activity during the SONGS exercise conducted April 13th. This was a FEMA-graded San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station exercise. Thanks to Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV, who staffed the RACES radio room during the exercise.

American Red Cross MAYDAY Event

A number of Red Cross organizations, as well as many outside organizations will be participating in the second annual American Red Cross MAYDAY event on May 7, 2005. This event will be held at the Orange County chapter office at 601 N. Golden Circle Drive in Santa Ana, reports Mel Goldberg, N6MEL, the ARC emergency communications lead. County of Orange RACES will be participating, and will be providing our RACES vehicle as a part of the "show-and-tell" event.

Currently, the following are participating: National American Red Cross; San Diego American Red Cross, Los Angeles American Red Cross, Riverside American Red Cross and Orange County American Red Cross; OCRACES; HBRACES; Anaheim RACES; FVRACES; Westminster RACES; MESAC; IDEC; Hospital Disaster Group; Navy/Marine Corp MARS; Army MARS; Coast Guard Auxiliary; CLARA Repeater Group; and SOARA Repeater Group.

The National American Red Cross Emergency Communication Response Vehicle (ECRV) is expected at Mayday. This vehicle includes all ham modes, commercial and government radio services, including Satellite, uplink to internet and local cell site. This is the National ARC solution to complete ground communications failure.

Mel suggests attendees bring anything you would bring if you were setting up a field station. A canopy, if your group has one, is suggested as the parking lot has no shade. "We'll try to set up our Canteen with ice water," said Mel.

If you have any questions about this event, please feel free to contact Mel at mgoldberg@oc-redcross.org.

MAYDAY Event Schedule

0830-1000:	Setup & registration
1000:	Welcome and introductions
1000-1130:	Presentations
1130-1230:	Tour Red Cross EOC & Radio Room
1130-1230:	Lunch (bring your own)
1230-1330:	Afternoon discussion, workshops & field exercise
1330:	Tear down

Watching The Web – By Ken Bourne, W6HK

Are you detecting a strange signal or noise on one or more of your bands of operation, and wondering where it's coming from? The answer might be found on "The Noise Identification Web Site" maintained by Ken Alexander, VE3HLS. The URL is: http://ve3hls.tripod.com/noise/rfihome.html.

The Web site helps to identify a noise by comparing it to audio samples of noise from known sources. The samples are recorded as MP3 files, which may be played through Windows Media Player, WinAmp, RealPlayer, or other MP3 file player.

Audio files under Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment are from sources such as a light dimmer, TV sets, exercise treadmill, power-line controls, Sharper Image Ionic Breeze Quadra air cleaner, satellite receiver, electric blanket, insect repeller, digital video camera, and cordless-telephone

charger. Audio files under Computers include a monitor, Logitech speakers (from a circuit that turns off the speakers when inactive), cable Internet router, five-port Ethernet switch, and a Toshiba cable modem. Other categories contain files of power-line noise (including BPL), high-pressure sodium streetlight noise, electric fences, noise from a local carwash, and unidentified noises.

The Web site also includes a page of links to other RFI-related sites containing audio files and documents about detecting, recording, and eliminating RFI.

Each month, we highlight a Web Site of interest to RACES personnel. Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer, County of Orange RACES, spends hours surfing the Web to bring us an interesting and useful site!

www.ocraces.org

Mission Statement

County of Orange RACES has made a commitment to provide all Public Safety departments in Orange County with the most efficient response possible to supplement emergency/disaster and routine Public Safety communications events and activities. We will provide the highest level of service using Amateur and Public Safety radio resources coupled with technology, teamwork, safety and excellence. We will do so in an efficient, professional and courteous manner, accepting accountability for all actions. We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership with the Public Safety community to professionally excel in the ability to provide emergency communications resources and services.

County of Orange RACES Frequencies:

☐ 6m: 52.62 MHz output, 52.12 MHz input, 103.5 PL

☐ 2m: 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 PL *

☐ 23cm: 1282.025 MHz output, 1270.025 MHz input, 88.5 PL

☐ 1.25m: 223.76 MHz output, 222.16 MHz input, 110.9 PL

☐ 70 cm: 449.180 MHz output, 444.180 MHz input, 107.2 PL

* Primary Net - Mondays, 1900 Hours

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Radio Officers	Assistant Radio Officers
Scott Byington, KC6MMF	Jack Barth, AB6VC
Jim Carter, WB6HAG	Ralph Sbragia, W6CSP
Harvey Packard, KM6BV	
Joe Selikov, KB6EID	

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RACES News from Around the County

LAGUNA BEACH RACES

Chief Radio Officer John Kountz, KE6GFF, reports that Laguna Beach RACES will participate in the May 14th Laguna Beach Public Safety Day, from 10:00 until 2:00 p.m. This event is downtown along the side of the Police Department. "We will set up a station and will have certificates for kids and info for the adults," said John. Laguna Beach RACES has also started their planning for Field Day, coming soon (June 25-26). John said that the rules have been slightly revised this year, and encouragement is being given to using the digital modes as well as including a youth element. They will be looking for local youth groups, such as scouts or sports groups, to invite to Field Day. And finally, the next Laguna Beach RACES meeting is Monday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m.

ORANGE COUNTY RACES

Our RACES vehicle was on display in conjunction with a Community Law Enforcement Day in the City of Stanton at Stanton Park. The Sheriff's Department provided many law enforcement related displays, including displays for kids and families, and a classic car show. We were able to showcase our RACES vehicle, providing us an opportunity to educate the public about our capabilities and promote Amateur Radio and our RACES program. Thanks to Ken Bourne, Scott Byington, Bryan Hovde, Harvey Packard, John Roberts and Tom Tracey for participating.

HDSCS

Shortly after midnight on Friday, April 22, HDSCS communicators gathered at St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton to assist in a planned major phone switch upgrade. By 0100 hours communicators were stationed around the hospital as the phone work commenced. During the 5 hour event, normal phones and paging were periodically disrupted. The hospital prepared for this upgrade with special emergency phones and pagers but still requested the back up of Amateur Radio operators.   HDSCS communicators were on station in the Emergency Department, Critical Care Units, and all other inpatient care units. One communicator stayed with the Disaster/ Safety coordinator at the command post and one shadowed the house supervisor. Traffic was minimal through the early morning hours but the HDSCS communicators did aid in relaying a Code Blue page that was not heard on one unit, handle some tactical requests about getting information from the laboratory, updating nursing staff as to the status of the switchover, and informing all units of a correction in the number of the emergency phone number. "This was the 69th standby operation in the 25 years of HDSCS," reported April Moell, WA6OPS.

"RACES News" provides an opportunity to share information from all City & County RACES organizations in Orange County.

Please send your news to:

OCRACES@

ocgov.com

May 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 *Weekly Net*	3 *OCRACES Meeting*	4	5	6	7 *ARC MAYDAY Event*
8	9 *Weekly Net*	10	11	12	12	14
15	16 *Weekly Net*	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 *Weekly Net*	24	25	26	27	28 *RACES Vehicle Display*
29	30 *Weekly Net*	31				

Upcoming Events:

- **May 3:** OCRACES monthly meeting, in conjunction with the Anaheim RACES meeting, Anaheim EOC, 1900 hours

- **May 7**: American Red Cross MAYDAY event, Red Cross headquarters, 1000-1330 hours

- **May 15-21:** Emergency Medical Services Week

- **May 28**: RACES vehicle on display at EMS Week Angel Game, Angel Stadium

- **June 6**: OCRACES monthly meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, 1930 Hours

- **June 27**: City/County RACES meeting, 1900 Hours

The Next Generation – by Ray Grimes, N8RG

I recently had the pleasure of attending a vendor seminar that was showcasing new public safety mobile broadband technology. This also served as a sampler of our future "competition" for ham radio supported special services such as ATV, SSTV, PSK-31, and APRS. The law enforcement and fire communities are very excited about broadband services, having shown interest and need for many years, for mobile and portable two-way video and image transmission, VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol), two-way data transmission, and vehicle location. The new 4.9 GHz public safety band offers 50 MHz of bandwidth for shared spectrum broadband services such as real-time, high-quality, two-way mobile and aircraft video and imaging, plus a host of high-speed public safety applications. Some of these services is not without its challenges right now, as the industry still has yet to agree on transmission protocol standards and the rules for sharing of spectrum.

When all of this settles out, 4.9 GHz offers superb high-quality real-time two-way video to and from police cars, and the ability to slave existing in-building security cameras through an IP connection to view the interior of a structure prior to sending in emergency responders. 4.9 GHz can support very high-quality duplex voice links and telephone interconnect, plus simultaneously offering data services such as Mobile Data Computers. The police or fire vehicle of the not-so-distant future will employ a mobile office that will allow ready access to HAZMAT inventories, blueprints of buildings, wanted and missing persons photographs, and connection to the internet to access information on most any topic or the ability to contact most any global agency. The most amazing thing is that many of these services can be performed using a PDA or similar handheld portable device. The ham radio community needs to take notice of this dramatic shift in technology, exploring other evolving elements of communications and electronics that may benefit public safety agencies, reclaiming our technological leading edge in public service.

County of Orange RACES

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It's Where It's @!

Questions or Comments?
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"W6KRW ...
Serving
Orange County"

Meet your County of Orange RACES Members!

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Jack Barth AB6VC	Bill Borg KG6PEX	Ernest Fierheller KG6LXT	Nancee Graff N6ZRB	Ray Grimes N8RG	Bryan Hovde KD7CRA	Walter Kroy KC6HAM
Martin LaRocque N6NTH	Carol Matthews KF6ERZ	John Roberts W6JOR	Tony Sanchez AE6QT	Ralph Sbragia W6CSP	Steve Sobodos KN6UX	Tom Stroud N6FDZ	Tom Tracey KC6FIC